

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	68844	Agenda Number	48.
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Meeting Date:	3/23/2017	Department:	Telecommunications and Reg Affairs
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Subject

Approve an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Telecommunications and Regulatory Affairs Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund (Ordinance No. 20160914-001) to accept and appropriate \$145,000 in grant funds from US Ignite for the Smart Gigabit Communities Program to develop applications that use high speed broadband networks to benefit the community.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding in the amount of \$145,000 is available from US Ignite. A City funding match in the amount of \$20,000 is available in the FY 2016-2017 Operating Budget of Communications & Technology Management Department. The grant period is March 1, 2017 through August 31, 2018.

Fiscal Note

A fiscal note is attached detailing the acceptance and appropriation of grant funds.

Purchasing Language:	
Prior Council Action:	
For More Information:	Rondella Hawkins (512) 974-2422
Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:	
MBE / WBE:	
Related Items:	

Additional Backup Information

The City of Austin was selected to participate in the US Ignite Smart Gigabit Communities (SGC) project to connect participating cities through a high-speed advanced network infrastructure. In 2015, the National Science Foundation awarded US Ignite, a national non-profit, a \$6 million dollar grant to encourage and foster the development of transformative new applications that can be supported by gigabit broadband speeds over a three-year period. The goal is to create the country's first network of smart gigabit communities that share new applications with each other to deliver important advances in the six national priority areas of clean energy, education and workforce technologies, health information technologies, public safety, transportation, and advanced manufacturing. Austin begins participation in Year 2 of 3-year grant period. Funding will help cover expenses to create two smart gigabit applications per year, for a total of four applications that will be shared among all participants. Austin departments are working with a Smart Gigabit Community Steering Group comprised of broad-based community representatives who will support the infrastructure and development of gigabit applications and motivate the local technology community to develop applications that have a social impact and can be used by the communities over the long-run.

Participating communities include: Adelaide, Australia (the first city outside the United States to join), Albuquerque, New Mexico, Austin, TX; Burlington, VT; Chattanooga, TN; Cleveland, OH; Detroit, Michigan, Flint, MI; Jackson, Tennessee Kansas City, KS & MO; Madison, WI; the North Carolina Next Generation Network (NCNGN); Richardson, TX; Wasatch Front cities including Salt Lake City and Provo, UT; Lafayette, LA; Urbana-Champaign, IL; and Washington, D.C.

The \$145,000 will be used as follows: \$20,000 for conducting a Reverse Pitch Competition to generate ideas for gigabit application development; \$30,000 annually for a part time, technical leader over a two-year period (up to \$60,000); \$25,000 for start-up funding to support gigabit activities and application development in the local community; and \$20,000 annually for two years (up to \$40,000) to be used to test the applications to make sure they work with each other and are interoperable with the other communities.

The General Fund will not be required to contribute additional funds beyond those currently budgeted to this grant. When the grant funds expire, the Telecommunications and Regulatory Affairs Department's need for continuing funding will be evaluated and may be denied.